

REMARKS

In reply to the Official Office Action of June 3, 2008, Applicants respond as follows:

Claim 13 has been rejected under 35 USC 112 as being indefinite. Claims 1-2, 4-7, 13, 18-20, 23, 27, 28, 29, 32, 34 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Shibahata et al. in view of Gordaninejad et al. Claim 8 has been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Shibahata et al. in view of Gordaninejad et al, and further in view of Weitzenhof et al..

Claims 1-2, 4-8, 13-20, 23, 24, 27-32, 34-36 have been rejected as double patenting over U.S. 6,378,671. Applicants include herewith a terminal disclaimer to overcome this rejection.

Claims 14-17, 24, 30, 31, 35, 36 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Applicants have amended the allowable objected claims 14-17, 24, 30, 31, 35, 36 and cancelled the rejected claims from further consideration in this application as shown in the attached. Applicants are not conceding in this application that those claims are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the present claim amendments and cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of the allowable subject matter noted by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue these and other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for claims 14-17, 24, 30, 31, 35, 36.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 12-2143.

Respectfully submitted,
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